

**From:** Douglas Schmutz  
**To:** Microsoft Settlement  
**Date:** 1/28/02 11:19pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

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Microsoft Settlement  
U.S. Department of Justice-Antitrust Division  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Microsoft Settlement:

This is just a note to say that I feel the currently contemplated settlement with Microsoft is a miscarriage of justice. The company has been and continues to be guilty of monopolistic business practices and is largely responsible for a great amount of the insecurity of the WEB. The only reason they have a fairly productive office suite is because they had to compete with WordPerfect. They did not innovate, it was WordPerfect that was the innovator, but because Microsoft controlled the operating system and could do it. they kept secrets that allowed them to make their product appear to perform better and made WordPerfect have incompatibility problems. They finally practically ruined WordPerfect by dropping prices and forcing computers to bundle their products instead of WordPerfect. The result is that now, they can (and do) raise the prices and of their products since the competition is almost nonexistent and they ship buggy software, full of security holes. I think it is in the interest of the consumer and the industry to place huge monetary penalties on the company and that money be distributed to software companies that used to compete so they can get back in business. Also they should be banned from producing software applications that run under Windows, so that they would have no interest in undermining the performance of thirdparty vendors.

Sincerely,

Doug Schmutz